

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The UDB prison in Vrsac, near the Rumanian-Yugoslav border, is a collection point for Rumanian refugees who escape to Yugoslavia. Preliminary screening is conducted in the prison by the Yugoslav National Militia; refugees are then turned over to UDB interrogators, who question them chiefly about the political situation in Rumania.
2. Following the UDB interrogation at Vrsac, refugee prisoners are transferred in groups under heavy guard to Kovacia, near Pancevo. A prison in Kovacia has been converted into a concentration camp which is used exclusively for Rumanian refugees. The camp is commanded by a UDB major. Accommodations, food, and sanitary conditions in the Kovacia camp are described as shocking. The building is under heavy guard. Prisoners are allowed to move about in the corridors but cannot leave the building, except for brief periods three times a day when they are allowed to go into the prison yard to wash and eat.
3. From Kovacia refugees are sent in groups of 200 or 300 to the interior of Yugoslavia as industrial workers and miners. Their skills and abilities are assessed before they leave the camp. Professional people and students, as well as laborers and skilled workmen, are forced to work. Former Rumanian Army officers, who are regarded by UDB as especially unreliable, are assigned to special groups to be kept under strict observation. The refugee workers are sent most frequently to Tuzla, Mladenovac, Titove Ulice, and Kraljevo. Old people and families who refuse to work remain in the Kovacia camp.
4. In November 1948, the following prominent Rumanians were in the camp; Petala, at one time Rumanian Minister to Washington; General Dimitri Petrescu, former Rumanian Military Attaché in Washington; Darvari, formerly a consul. In addition, one general, one admiral, two colonels, and 30 senior officers were confined in the camp.

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